



# Durham

## Environmental Affairs Board

### M i n u t e s

March 22, 2005 ■ 6:00 p.m.  
Conference Room A  
Ground Floor, City Hall

### Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Will Anderson, Sharon Beard, Kathi Beratan, Ahrash Bissell, Bill Harnett, Matthew Greenwolfe, Doc Terrell

**Members Absent:** Rick Crume (Excused), Howard Glasgow (Unexcused)

**Staff Present:** Kathleen Snyder, Glen Whistler, Vicki Westbrook, Terry Rolan

**Guests Present:** Judy Kincaid

### Call To Order/Minutes

Beard called meeting to order. Minutes of January 25, 2005 approved 7-0 with date correction.

### New Business

Board discussed and reviewed the visioning process and the 2005 EAB work plan that the Board had worked on at previous meetings. Kathi Beratan noted that the Board is not suited to provide technical support or perform outreach, but can help government with strategic planning. Beard emphasized importance of a month to month work plan.

Terry Rolan provided a historical perspective of the EAB and looked to the future of the Board. The EAB was formed by local elected officials in 1991 to provide an informed, professional voice on watershed issues. The Board also reviewed the waste incinerator proposal and possibly a landfill siting. In Terry Rolan's opinion, the big, upcoming environmental issue is water quality at Jordan and Falls Lakes, and how water quality regulations affect development and the treatment of discharged water. The current Chlorophyll A indicator is insufficient, but Durham is spending lots of money to reduce the count because of the State regulations. Durham will have to deal with big changes in water quality standards in the near future. The new battle will be to control non-point sources since our treatment plants (point sources) are operating at the limits of technology. The state needs better water quality data which would produce better regulations.

In answer to Ahrash Bissell's question about the role of the Board, Kathleen Snyder said that the Planning Department views the EAB as a body that should be proactive. Sharon Beard noted that the Board is currently focused on three major topics: 1) energy audit; 2) Results Based Accountability; and 3) Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Sharon Beard noted difficulty of linking

public health to these topics. Sharon Beard offered to draft the work plan and Ahrash Bissell and Kathleen Snyder offered to assist.

### **Announcements**

Sharon Beard will not be able to attend the April 2005 meeting so Ahrash Bissell will chair.

The interlocal agreement was amended to include the new attendance standards.

Ahrash Bissell and Kathi Beratan noted the importance of capitalizing on local events such as the recent walk for the environment. Ahrash Bissell reported that the Durham Environmental Coalition is in the process of setting its goals and wants to coordinate splinter groups. The EAB needs a representative at its meetings.

### **Old Business**

Sharon Beard noted that the Air Quality report was nearly complete, and said the Board needed to take a final look at the final action and strategies and recommendations sections of the report.

Kathi Beratan reported on the Results Based Accountability committee on which she sits. For air quality, vehicle miles traveled and ozone are the indicators selected. For land, quantity and quality of land protected will be the indicators. For water quality, the indicator is not settled, but committee would like to use flow characteristics. The draft is coming soon. Matthew Greenwolfe asked about inclusion of number of solar rooftops and Kathi Beratan said that indicator did not make the cut.

Kathleen Snyder reported that the Greenhouse Gas Local Action Plan update was moving forward and that three firms had been chosen as finalists. After the firm is selected to update the plan, the EAB will be pulled in to assist.

Ahrash Bissell attended the City budget meeting and reported that there is a shortfall, further speculating that the EAB will get no funding.

On the topic of energy management, guest Judy Kincaid noted that Durham Public School hired an energy manager, and that the City and the County waste hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in energy costs. Judy Kincaid is lobbying for a local government energy manager, and the City is putting a line item in the budget for an energy manager. The Board should encourage the City to hire this energy manager. Matthew Greenwolfe emphasized that the government's energy bills should be aggregated, and this point should be added the air quality report along with the point that the air quality manager should be hired.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 pm upon a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Will Anderson, EAB Secretary